

Dear Council,

I moved to the Westside at Shady Grove neighborhood with thoughts of it being a thriving community for my baby at the time to grow up. We moved here when he was six months old from Arlington so he could attend the new elementary school that he could walk to that would be across the street and play in the large park. We were so excited to see the growth of the community. Sadly, what we have seen is a lack of commitment to move the bus depot. It is so obvious that this area could thrive without the busses and what a horrible mistake it is to not make it the number one priority to remove them.

I first moved to Montgomery County ten years ago, to the Grosvenor Metro area. Another area that was going to be up and coming. From there I moved to Navy yard, yet again before it became the amazing place it is today. It was pretty great but oh my god it has been developed into something wonderful and then to Arlington. I have always prided myself on picking places that would thrive and would be amazing. This more than any move was the most important because of my son and now sadly this move has been my biggest disappointment. It has now been four years with what seems to be zero progress with moving the busses.

It is just a fact that if you have communities around a metro location it will be good for the local economy and the county. I know nobody wants the busses but the good of moving them should completely outdo the bad. If the busses were moved the homes here would sell, businesses would want to move in, a true community would be formed.

It seems like this area is the step child that county executives just leave behind and don't want to see the potential. It is here, it can thrive. There is already a community of people so invested in seeing that it succeeds. We have done everything we can to supports the few businesses we have and to keep the neighborhood clean and bring community spirit. It is difficult to do so when we have not had any support and we don't see a light at the end of the tunnel.

I beg of you to invest in this area and see what it can do for this forgotten and sad part of Montgomery County. Let's make it beautiful and thriving instead of sad. Let's have children running in parks and to their homes, people dining outdoors and folks coming to and from work via metro. Save this area!

Sincerely,

Danielle M. Welch